

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 9 and 14-17 are independent claims.

By this amendment, claims 1-12 are amended for clarity to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, and new claims 14-17 are added.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

The Claims Satisfy The Requirements Of 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

The Office Action reject claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 1-12 obviates the rejection of claim 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph.

In particular, the claims are amended to clarify the intended meaning of the “predetermined system” and the “first system” as previously claimed. Specifically, an aspect of the present invention is to allow a user to access a “Printing Service”, for example, by using authentication information issued by a service provider other than the provider of the printing service. This other service provider can be an Internet provider, a mail-order company, etc. Each of the other service providers work in collaboration with the “Printing Service” through contract agreements, for example, so that the services associated with the “Printing Service” can be provided to the users who have registered with the other service providers, i.e., the collaborating service providers. (see present specification, at least page 12, lines 2-17).

As such, a key aspect of the present invention is to allow a user to minimize the number of authentication information (user ID and passwords) that one must memorize for all of the available services on-line. In the present invention, the user can access a “Printing Service”, for example, by using the authentication information associated with a “Collaborating Service

Provider.” As a result, the user does not necessarily need to have a separate user ID and password for accessing the “Printing Service”, but instead is capable of accessing the “Printing Service” via a “Collaborating System.”

As such, the claims are amended to clarify the intended meaning of the above noted features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 **to schedule a Personal Interview.**

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time